

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday, February 28, 2008

7:00 pm

City Hall – McCloskey Room

401 North Morton Street

Attending: Kelly Boatman, Kriste Lindberg, Laura Trout, Mike Litwin, Phaedra Pezzullo, Jacqui Bauer, Heather Reynolds, Mike Tosick, Mark Lemon, Jacob Mazer, Linda Thompson

Absent: Don Moore, Tom McGlasson

Chair Kelly Boatman called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

- I. Announcements
 - a. Next Environmental Commission meeting: Thursday, March 20th, 2008, 7:00 pm, McCloskey Room
 - b. Next Planning Committee meetings: Wed. March 5th, 4:00 pm, Planning Dept.
 - c. Next Education Committee meeting: Mon. March 24th, 5:15–6:15 pm, Room 207 MCPL
 - d. Griffy Lake Management Plan information tables will be in the City Council Chambers on March 3 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Tables will have different topics relating to the plan, where people can give input or gather information.
- II. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Electronic edits submitted by members of the commission.
 - b. Additional edits given at meeting.
 - c. Jacqui Bauer: Motion to approve January Minutes with suggested edits
 - d. Laura Trout: Second
 - e. Pass unanimously
- III. Public Comment
 - a. Steve Forrest, citizen
 - i. Students from Burney Fischer's IU-SPEA Urban Forestry class are conducting case studies in 8 neighborhoods throughout Bloomington conducting inventories, including a street tree inventory, and making recommendations for future use. The students will present their findings to the local neighborhood associations.
 - b. Isabel Piedmont, Bloomington City Council
 - i. Attended Indiana Build Green Symposium. Great wealth of information from leading builders, architects, and designers in the field.
 - c. Matt Smethurst, City Engineering
 - i. 3 current grading permits issued.
 - d. Dave Rollo, Bloomington City Council

- i. The city council will be voting on a resolution opposing back-country logging.

IV. Reports

a. Staff Reports

i. Jacob Mazer

- 1. BEQI Bikes web page and Transportation Basics web page have been completed and circulated to the Environmental Commission by email. Feedback on either report is appreciated.

b. Planning Committee

i. ECPC – Mike Litwin

- 1. 2 petitions considered
 - a. Prow Road – continued to March
 - b. Woolery – there is sidewalk on both sides of the street. The sidewalk on the east side of the street cuts into a tree preservation line, so the EC spoke out against this sidewalk. The sidewalk was voted down 6 – 3.

ii. Senior Environmental Planner – Linda Thompson

- 1. Morton North – is on the Planning Commission agenda for the next meeting. An issue is variance in greenspace tree preservation, the current plan calls for less than what the UDO prescribes.
- 2. Prow Road Subdivision – City Utilities found problems with maintenance of the proposed pervious pavement, so they are no longer planning to use the pervious surface. The new plan is to make the streets convex.
- 3. Keith Clay bought a house on 4th St. and is opening a coffee shop and antique store
- 4. Roosters Motel on S Walnut – Want to build 3 new buildings with 122 units and 153 parking spaces on the old sites. A potential issue is destruction of the riparian buffer to the adjacent creek.
- 5. North Gate – Will be voted on at next Planning Commission meeting. Issue is variance of permeable surface. The lot currently has 7% greenspace, the developer is proposing 24%, and the UDO calls for 40%.
- 6. 11th and College – The architect is LEED certified and the commercial and apartment complex will have many green features, including more landscaping, a recycling area, and a partially green roof.

c. Green Building Committee – Mike Tosick

- i. Talking through details of the green building ordinance with members of the City Council.

d. Greenhouse Gas Reduction Committee – Mike Tosick

- i. Working on ideas for the city to enact greenhouse gas reduction commitment. Potential for an initiative on sustainable transportation. This is based on Dan Burton's talk, and the EC may want him to come back to formulate a platform.
 - ii. Jacob is working on monitoring. There is software that can track greenhouse gas emissions, at a cost of \$300. Appropriating \$300 for the software will be discussed in the March meeting.
- e. Education – Phaedra Pezzullo and Kriste Lindberg
 - i. Phaedra Pezzullo – IU Sustainability Taskforce has posted webspace for advertising K-12 education events for any environmental group
 - ii. Kriste Lindberg –
 - 1. Energy talk on March 13 at 7:00 p.m. in the MCPC Auditorium
 - 2. The EC gave \$50 for the Jordan River Festival
- f. Cost of Growth – Heather Reynolds
 - i. Looking at budget trends from 1990 to the present to identify trends as potentially related to growth.
 - ii. Feedback from the Planning Department regarding Cost of Growth in Bloomington report
 - 1. define growth
 - 2. inconsistency of data
- g. Commissioners Reports
 - i. Jacqui Bauer – Attended last Metro Planning Organization Meeting. Are any other commissioners interested in being the EC representative?
 - ii. Kelly Boatman – Each EC Commissioner should check the EC website to make sure their biographical information is up to date.

V. New Business

- a. Griffy Lake Vegetation Management Plan – Steve Cotter, Parks and Recreation Department Natural Resource Manager
 - i. The Griffy Lake Vegetation Management Plan is currently being updated by Parks and Recreation in consultation with Aquatic Control Incorporated. The plan calls to increase alternative controls for curly leaf pond weed to reestablish native plants.
 - ii. EC members expressed concern about a conflict of interest because a company with an interest in promoting chronic large use of herbicide is playing an integral role in writing the plan. The initial plan was to eliminate Eolidia from Griffy Lake, and now the plan has changed to eliminating all invasive species. It seems that alternatives to chemical treatment need to be investigated more fully.
 - iii. Mike Litwin will facilitate a letter from the EC to Parks and Recreation expressing the EC's concerns about the current plan to be submitted next week.

- b. EC Budget 2008-2009
 - i. Changes in salaries/wages and consultants/workshops line-items.
 - ii. Budget to be voted on in March.
- c. Morgan-Monroe State Forest Logging Petition
 - i. Should the EC sign a petition to oppose logging in a 100 acre parcel of backcountry in Morgan-Monroe State Forest?
 - ii. Arguments For:
 - 1. A local issue because part of forest is in Monroe County
 - 2. Tie to the Greenspace Report as a larger initiative
 - 3. EC's reaction to state level change in priority regarding preservation
 - 4. Mayor Kruzan and the City Council have signed the petition, and the City Council is creating a resolution to oppose the logging
 - 5. Mature ecosystems provide services to the community.
 - iii. Arguments Against:
 - 1. Outside the scope of the EC, not a city issue
 - 2. If we join this petition will the EC join every forest issue? Where does the EC draw the line?
 - iv. Jacqui Bauer: Motion to vote on approving EC signing Morgan-Monroe State Forest Logging Petition
 - v. Mike Tosick: second
 - vi. Vote:
 - 1. 4 approve
 - 2. 1 oppose
 - 3. 3 abstain
 - vii. Motion does not pass
 - viii. All EC members encouraged to sign as individuals if they so choose
- d. PCBs
 - i. Phaedra Pezzullo suggested an amendment to PCB remediation consent decree that requests the city's right to be updated on the remediation process as it occurs and to be notified if documents are to be destroyed. There is currently a 30 day comment period on the amendment.
 - ii. A statement will be drafted by Phaedra and circulated via email to be submitted by Kelly before the comment period ends March 26.
 - iii. Jacqui Bauer: Motion to approve letter be approved over email
 - iv. Laura Trout: second
 - v. Approved unanimously

VI. Old Business

- a. EC 2008 Work Plan
 - i. The work plan is a "living document" and not set in stone.
- b. EC Vacancies
 - i. Currently applications in the Mayor's office

- c. EC Adopt a Community
 - i. City legal department said no, there are liability and insurance issues.
 - ii. Go back to legal to see if it is alright to just send resources.

- VII. Adjournment
 - a. Jacqui Bauer: Motion to adjourn
 - b. Mike Tosick: Second
 - c. Approved unanimously

BLOOMINGTON ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday, January 17, 2008

7:00 pm

City Hall – McCloskey Room

401 North Morton Street

Attending: Kelly Boatman, Kriste Lindberg, Laura Trout, Mike Litwin, Phaedra Pezzullo, Jacqui Bauer, Don Moore, Heather Reynolds, Mike Tosick, Tom McGlasson, Mark Lemon

Absent: Linda Thompson

Chair Kelly Boatman called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

I. Announcements

- a. Next Environmental Commission meeting: Thursday, February 21, 2008, 7:00 p.m., McCloskey Room, City Hall
- b. Next Planning Committee meetings: Friday, January 18 and Wednesday, January 30, 2008, 4:00 p.m., Planning Dept
- c. Next Education Committee meeting: Monday, February 4, 2008, 5:15 p.m., Indiana Room at the Monroe County Public Library
- d. Next Green Building Committee meeting: Friday, January 19, 2008, 2:00 p.m., McCloskey Room, City Hall
- e. Announcements from Chair Kelly Boatman
 - i. Officers for 2008:
 1. Chair: Kelly Boatman
 2. Vice Chair: Phaedra Pezzullo
 3. Secretary/Treasurer: Mike Tosick
 4. Staff Coordinator: Phaedra Pezzullo
 5. Interns: Mark Lemon and Jacob Mazer
 6. Council/BCOS Liaison: Dave Rollo
 7. Tree Committee Rep.: Mick Tosick
 8. ERAC Rep.: Mike Litwin
 9. MPO CAC Rep. (Tentatively): Jacqui Bauer
 - ii. 2 vacancies on the Environmental Commission. Anyone who is interested should apply. All applicants must live within the city limits of Bloomington.
 - iii. Green Building Symposium being held in Indianapolis January 31 and February 1. City Councilwoman Isabel Piedmont is attending if anyone wants to go with her.
 - iv. Dan Burton from walkable communities will be speaking in Indianapolis on January 18 in Bloomington on Saturday, January 19 at the City Hall Council Chambers from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

- v. In an effort to reduce the amount of email being sent over the EC listserv, emails should be directed to the concerned committee or chair, not the Environmental Commission at large
- II. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Electronic edits submitted by members of the commission.
 - b. Additional edits given at meeting
 - c. Phaedra Pezzullo: Motion to approve November Minutes with suggested edits
 - d. Heather Reynolds: Second
 - e. Passed unanimously
- III. Public Comment
 - a. Rick Alexander – City Engineering
 - i. 8 people are currently working in the department. There are 2 vacancies, one which was just filled and one still vacant. The engineering department is currently short-handed.
 - ii. Current project: Villages at Muller Park – installing the water line
 - iii. Matt Smethurst is currently doing site visits
 - iv. Will speak with Matt about giving a 2007 year end summary
- IV. Guest Presentation: Mr. Mick Harrison, Esq., citizen update on PCB remediation efforts
 - a. Continuing problems with PCB levels in Bloomington from use of PCBs at Westinghouse from 1958-1977.
 - b. Current EPA risk assessments on PCB levels are limited; they do not look at enough criteria. What is needed is a large-scale calculation of how many PCBs were released in the entire manufacturing process.
 - c. Current solutions do not go far enough to fully deal with the problem.
 - d. Karst issue exacerbates the PCB problem
 - e. Recommendations:
 - i. Focus should be on prevention of exposure, not treatment for exposure.
 - ii. Bloomington should start formal dialogue on how to stop PCB contamination. The city government should align with the opinion of its citizens to actively stop PCBs, instead of aligning with EPA and polluters.
 - iii. Burden should be on the producer, not the victim. The approach in the Bloomington community is currently the opposite and needs to change.
- V. Reports
 - a. Staff Reports
 - i. Jacob Mazer will remain as EC intern until May 1, 2008
 - ii. Mark Lemon – Cost of Growth

1. Collected follow-up information on property tax revenue for the city to compare to the costs of growth in December 2007 report. Initial analysis looks as though costs outpace revenue.
- b. Planning Committee
 - i. ECPC Report – Heather Reynolds
 1. The EC submitted memos on 4 petitions. Three were downtown and the EC memo concerned exotic invasive species, which will be worked on. The memos also encourage green building and recycling.
 2. Doug Bruce, who is an architect involved with a recent petition, will be taking the LEED exam.
 3. Woolery development will cluster homes, leaving more green space and creating a tree preservation area. The EC supports this development.
- c. Green Building Committee – Jacqui Bauer and Mike Tosick
 - i. Tomorrow at 2:00 p.m. in the McCloskey Room of City Hall there will be a public meeting, the purpose of which is a brainstorm effort for 2008.
 - ii. City Council members Isabel Piedmont and Dave Rollo are restructuring the Green Building Ordinance and moving forward to get it passed
 - iii. Jacqui Bauer submitted a guest column to the Herald Times that has not been run
- d. Greenhouse Gas Reduction Committee – Mike Tosick
 - i. Want to work to promote ideas of how to reach city reduction goals to the mayor
 - ii. The committee needs new members
 - iii. Working to get an intern to work on monitoring emissions
- e. Education Committee – Phaedra Pezzullo
 - i. Next Education Committee meeting is Monday, February 4 at 5:15 p.m. in the Indiana Room at the Monroe County Public Library
 - ii. Emphasis this year will be focusing education events that are of interest to different community groups
 - iii. Beth Shalom will be doing a greenhouse gas speaker series
- f. BEQI Committee – Phaedra Pezzullo
 - i. Jacob is preparing a webpage on biking, which will be circulated before the next meeting
- g. Commissioners Reports
 - i. Heather Reynolds: The 2007 Bloomington Environmental Commission end of year report is almost completed

VI. New Business

- a. EC 2008 Priorities and Work Plan
 - i. Projects (proposed)
 1. Cost of Growth

2. Ecological Footprint Initiative
3. Grey Water/Storm Water Capture and Reuse
4. Greenhouse Gas Emissions Monitoring
5. CASSE Steady State Economy Position
 - a. Discussion to potentially combine Cost of Growth and CASSE; Ecological Footprint Initiative and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Monitoring
6. Other suggested projects:
 - a. Liberia sister city: EC would serve in an advisory role with a city in Liberia. Jacqui Bauer would serve as the liaison for the EC. Susie Johnson in Public Works has offered to help. For the next meeting Jacqui will put in writing what the project is and Kelly will submit it to the city legal department for written approval. The EC will vote next month contingent on approval from legal.
 - b. PCB's: Since the EC is having 2 presentations on current state of PCBs it was suggested it should be a priority. There will be a discussion at the March meeting, following the 2 presentations, on potential action.
7. Chair Kelly Boatman will write out a formal list of projects to be voted on at the next meeting
- ii. Committees
 1. Steering
 2. Budget
 3. Planning Committee
 4. BEQI
 5. Greenhouse Gas Reduction
 6. Education
 7. Green Building
 8. Cost of Growth
- iii. Need a Metropolitan Planning Organization Citizen Advisory Committee (MPO CAC) Representative. The rep. provides citizen input. Jacqui Bauer will attend the next meeting and will tentatively be the next EC MPO CAC Rep.

VII. Old Business

- a. MLK Day Project Planning – Kriste Lindberg
 - i. The project is coming together well. The mural to be painted on Monday will be green rolling hills with blue skies and puffy white clouds. The students will then be able to add temporary green building, landscaping, etc. themes on the walls
 - ii. All are invited to help with painting. Monday, January 21 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

VIII. Adjournment

- a. Heather Reynolds: Motion to adjourn
- b. Laura Trout: second
- c. Meeting Adjourned at 9:30 p.m.